

Amendments to the Specification

Please add the following paragraph on page 7, between lines 15 and 16, as follows:

Fig. 5 is a flow chart of an exemplary process for responding to a request.

Please add the following paragraph on page 9, between lines 12 and 13, as follows:

Fig. 5 shows an exemplary flow chart of the above described process. In step S20, a holding unit, which may be data storage portion 11, holds pieces of data, and the process goes to step S22. In step S22, an operation unit, which may be control portion 12, calculates characteristic values based on the pieces of data, and the process goes to step S24. In step S24, the holding unit holds the calculated characteristic values, and the process goes to step S26. In step S26, the operation unit associates the calculated characteristic values with the pieces of data, and the process goes to step S28. In step S28, a providing unit, which may be communication control portion 14, accepts a characteristic value as an informational request for a piece of data, and the process goes to step S30. In step S30, the providing unit provides the requested piece of data based on the accepted characteristic value.